

Introduced by Senator Vargas
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Hueso)

May 16, 2012

Senate Joint Resolution No. 26—Relative to Naval Air Facility El Centro.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 26, as introduced, Vargas. The Naval Air Facility El Centro.

This measure would urge the California delegates of Congress to protect the Naval Air Facility El Centro during any upcoming base realignment and closure processes.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, United States Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta,
- 2 recently released the 2013 fiscal year defense budget proposal
- 3 which includes a request for new base closures; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The Naval Air Facility El Centro (NAF El Centro)
- 5 might be under consideration for closure in the 2013 or 2015
- 6 closure periods; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The NAF El Centro provides efficiencies and
- 8 benefits to the Navy which include, but are not limited to, a
- 9 strategic location near Marine Corps Air Stations and the naval
- 10 fleet, proximity to ranges for different types of flights, and carrier
- 11 training using the Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System and lighted
- 12 carrier deck landing areas; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The El Centro area provides clear weather and
- 14 unobstructed terrain, which in turn provides ample low-level flying
- 15 opportunities; and

1 WHEREAS, No other region in the United States more closely
2 resembles current combat areas of the world; and

3 WHEREAS, The El Centro area provides a high quality of life
4 for its residents and the NAF El Centro has enjoyed unparalleled
5 community support since the establishment of the base, including
6 support from the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors; and

7 WHEREAS, Another base closure in California could have a
8 devastating impact on the nation's security; and

9 WHEREAS, The impact of the closure of the NAF El Centro
10 goes beyond the employment of the base personnel, impacting
11 small local businesses, schools, sales and property tax bases of the
12 local community, the environment, the hospitality industry, the
13 housing market, and the local, regional, and state economies; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
16 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the representatives
17 from California to the Congress of the United States to protect the
18 NAF El Centro during any upcoming base realignment and closure
19 processes; and be it further

20 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the Secretary of Defense of the United States, to
22 the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives, to the minority leader of each house, to each
24 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
25 United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.